

Message Text

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13

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JOINT EMBASSY/USIS MESSAGE

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TAGS: MOPS, PBOR, SA

SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION TO ARAB/ISRAEL FIGHTING

1. BANNERLINES CONTINUE TO HIGHLIGHT NEWS CONTINUED ARAB ADVANCES: 56 THOUSAND EGYPTIAN SOLDIERS SUCCESSFULLY CROSS SUEZ CANAL - ENEMY FAILS TO STOP ADVANCE OF SYRIAN FORCES DESPITE ITS HEAVY USE OF AIR ON THE FRONT - CHANGES MADE IN ENEMY COMMAND IN SINAI IN ATTEMPT TO SAVE SITUATION. OTHER HEADLINES REPORT "IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS:" NEWS REPORTS ON SOVIET SHIPMENTS OF WEAPONS TO ARABS AND AMERICAN TO ENEMY - HEAVY ZIONIST PRESSURE ON NIXON GOVERNMENT TO INTERVENE FOR BENEFIT OF ISRAEL - NIXON AND FULBRIGHT AFFIRM THAT AMERICAN EFFORTS ARE SINCERE AND JUST AND SEEK A LASTING PEACE.

2. RELATED FRONTPAGE STORIES CARRY FOLLOWING LEADS: MESSAGE FROM SADAT TO FAISAL REPORTS LATEST DEVELOPMENTS ON TWO FRONTS; SAUDI CABINET MEETS UNDER PRINCE FADH TO DISCUSS APPROPRIATE SUPPORT FOR "THE SACRED ARAB STRUGGLE;" UPPER VOLTA SEVERS RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL; AMERICAN CALLS ON SOVIET UNION TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT.

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3. IN FRONTPAGE EDITORIAL UNDER HEADING ALLAHU AKBAR (GOD IS GREAT) AL BILAD SUBMITTED: "THE MYTH OF ISRAELI SUPERIORITY HAS BEEN DESTROYED WITH THE COLLAPSE OF THE BAR LEV LINE, THE SMASHING OF THE FORTIFICATIONS ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS, THE PENETRATION OF THE BRAVE EGYPTIAN FORCES DEEP INTO THE SINAI AND THE DOWNING OF ISRAELI PLANES LIKE FLIES...GOD HAS KEPT HIS PROMISE, MADE HIS SOLDIERS VICTORIOUS AND NOT FAILED TO DEAL WITH THE OPPRESSOR." UKAZ IN EDITORIAL TITLED THE LOGIC OF AGGRESSION ADOPTED A TONE OF INCREDULITY: "AMERICA EXPRESSED STRANGEST LOGIC AFTER THE OUTBREAK OF THE FIGHTING BETWEEN ARABS AND THE USURPERS OF THEIR LAND. AMERICA WISHES THE ARABS TO STOP TRYING TO LIBERATE THEIR LAND AND TO RETREAT TO THE BORDERS WHICH RESULTED IN THE ISRAELI AGGRESSION IN 1967. THIS STRANGE LOGIC MEANS THAT THE EAST BANK OF THE CANAL AND THE GOLAN HEIGHTS ARE NOT ARAB TERRITORY -- IT MEANS THAT ARABS HAVE LOST THEIR RIGHT TO REGAIN THE USURPED LAND AND IT MEANS THAT AMERICA SUPPORTS ONLY THE ENEMY AND STANDS IN THE FACE OF THE LEGITIMATE STRUGGLES WHICH THE ARABS ARE NOW UNDERTAKING...IT IS INDEED STRANGE TO BLAME THOSE WHO ARE RIGHT, WHO ARE CONTINUALLY EXPOSED TO THE ISREALI AGGRESSION, FOR TRYING TO RECOVER THEIR USURPED RIGHTS AND TERRITORY." AL MADINA UNDER HEADING WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE SIXTH DAY SAID: "THE WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST ENTERS ITS SIXTH DAY AMIDST RELIABLE NEWS OF CONTINUED ISREALI DEFEATS, AND THE ADMISSION BY JEWISH MILITARY LEADERS THAT THEIR LOSSES TOTAL A BILLION DOLLARS SO FAR. THE BATTLE OF TODAY IS NOT SIMILAR TO THAT OF 1967 WHICH TOOK SIX DAYS AND ENDED WITH THE ACCEPTANCE OF SC RESOLUTION BECAUSE THE LEADERS (ARAB) OF THAT WAR WANTED IT TO BE A WAR OF WORDS. THE FIRST STRIKE LAUNCHED BY THE ARAB FORCES ON BOTH SUEZ CANAL AND GOLAN EHIGHTS WAS DECISIVE, BUT THE ISRAELIS CLAIMED THAT THEY WERE TAKEN BY SURPRISE AND THAT THEY WERE PREPARING THEMSELVES TO DRIVE BACK THE ARAB FORCES ON THE THIRD OR FOURTH DAY. THEN ISRAEL CLAIMED THAT THE POWER OF THE ARAB FORCES MADE HER RECONSIDER HER STRATEGY AND NOW SHE WANTS TO CONCENTRATE AGAINST THE GOLAN HEIGHTS AND THEN THE SUEZ CANAL FRONT, BUT THERE IS NO ONE WHO CAN BELIEVE UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT ISRAEL AFTER SIX DAYS OF WAR AND SEVERAL DEFEATS CAN ANEW DOMINATE THE SITUATION. BUT THERE IS A DANGER OF FOREIGN INTERFERENCE FROM OUTSIDE THE MIDDLE EAST REPRESENTED IN COMPENSATING ISRAEL HER LOSSES AND ESPECIALLY WARPLANES AS WAS DEMANDED BY EDWARD KENNEDY AND SOME OTHER SENATORS OF US CONGRESS. SUCH INTERFERENCE IS MUCH RULED OUT AT THE TIME BEING, AS ANY SUCH INTERFERENCE WILL HAVE DISASTROUS RESULTS...THERE IS A NEW

ELEMENT IN THE SITUATION AND THAT IS THE CALL BY FRANCE
TO MEDIATE. IF ISRAEL AGREES TO ACCEPT THE SC RESOLUTION
AND WITHDRAWS, THEN PEACE COULD BE ACHIEVED, BUT IF ISRAEL
DOES NOT AND CONTINUES TO REFUSE THAT RESOLUTION, THEN
THE ARABS WILL CARRY OUT THE RESOLUTION IN FULL BY MEANS
OF FORCE."
HORAN

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